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"(b) The function of the Housing Advisory Committee is to advise on any problem or scheme connected with housing referred to it by the Departments of the Secretariat. It may call for information from the Departments of Secretariat and may initiate plans or policies relating to housing in the State."

SRI A. RATHINAM :—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Government will consider the question of co-opting the members belonging to Harijan and Backward Classes to the Housing Advisory Committee? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" This Committee does not have any non-officials, Sir."

Local Fund Hospital, Payyanur, North Malabar.

* 415 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether the Government have got any proposal to convert the Malabar District Board Local Fund Hospital at Payyanur into a Government Hospital?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The answer is in the negative."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" In view of the fact that this hospital is serving two lakhs of people living in Payyanur and surrounding villages and the bed-strength is very small and the people are suffering for want of a Government hospital, will the Hon. Minister sympathetically consider the question of converting this Local Fund Hospital into a Government Hospital? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, all the Taluk Headquarters Hospitals in Malabar have been provincialized. The hospital under reference is not even a sub-taluk hospital and so it will have to wait."

Government breeding bulls in East Godavari district.

* 416 Q.—SRI K. RAJAGOPALA RAO (on behalf of Sri C. V. K. Rao) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) how many breeding bulls are maintained by the Government in East Godavari district; and

(b) the cost of maintenance of such bulls per annum?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" (a) Three Murrah buffalo bulls are maintained by Government at the Veterinary Institutions, Rajahmundry, Kakinada and Amalapuram in East Godavari district.

"(b) The cost of maintenance of those bulls was Rs. 4,277 during 1951–52."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Will the Hon. Minister explain what he means by breeding bulls? Are they different from stud bulls? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" No, Sir."

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SRI K. RAJAGOPALA RAO :—" ఒక్కొక్క ఆంబోతు ఏడాదికి ఎన్ని ఆవులను దాటుతుందో చెప్పగలరా ? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" We require at least 50 to 60 services per year. They can do up to 70 or 80 services. But now with the artificial insemination that is coming into vogue, a bull can do 600 to 700 services a year. But I do not know whether there is artificial insemination. But at present we require at least 50 to 60 services per year."

Lease of Government steamers plying on the Godavari.

* 417 *Q.*—SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have entered into a contract with Sri Koduri Krishna Rao of Kovvur, West Godavari district, for the lease of the Government steamers " Dorothi " and " Helen " running in the Godavari river between Kovvur and Rajahmundry;

(*b*) if so, the terms of the contract;

(*c*) whether the contractor of the steamers issued a notice to the Government demanding compensation for the non-fulfilment of the contract by the Government as a result of the destruction of the steamers during the cyclone; and

(*d*) if so, whether the Government have taken any action in the matter?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) There are 38 conditions in the contract. The most important is condition 36 which reads as follows :—

' The lessee while plying the ferry is subject to all risks, and no claims of compensation on any account will be entertained by Government.'

" (*c*) The contractor submitted a petition to Government, in July 1950 requesting the following :—

(1) Cancellation of direct launch service between Rajahmundry and Central Delta.

(2) The cancellation of motor transport over the anicut.

(3) The reimbursement of Rs. 5,500, the cost incurred by the contractor for putting the steamers " Dorothy " and " Helen " in proper working order; and

(4) The payment of compensation of Rs. 30,000 per year (the loss incurred by him up till then).

" (*d*) The requests of the contractor were examined in consultation with the Chief Engineer (Highways) and it was decided that there was no case for complying with the petitioner's requests."